Applicati n N .: 09/875,871
Applicants: Dwip N. Banerjee and Rabindranath Dutta
Filed: Jun 7, 2001
Title: Using a C mmunications Network in Arranging Shipment of Goods
According to a Buyer's Preferences
T.C./A.U.: 3644
Examiner: Stephen A. Holzen
Docket No.: AUS9-2001-0346-US1

RECEIVED

JAN 0 6 2004

GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

Sir:
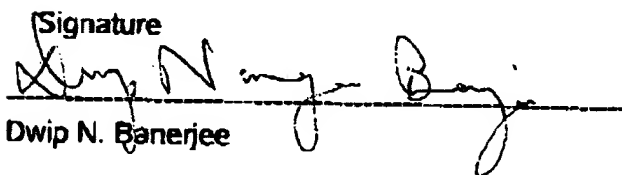We, Dwip N. Banerjee, Ph.D., and Rabindranath Dutta, Ph.D., hereby declare
that:

1.   We are the co-inventors of the above-mentioned patent application.

2.   Prior to October 31, 2000, we conceived the idea of using a
        communications network in arranging shipment of goods according to a
        buyer's preferences, as described and claimed in our patent application.
        An invention disclosure (No. AUS8-2000-1441, copy attached hereto as
        Exhibit A1) was created by Dr. Dutta, and provided to IBM on or about
        October 31, 2000. This invention disclosure included diagrams of
        embodiments of the invention, substantially as illustrated in FIG. 2 and
        FIG. 4 of our patent application.

3.   IBM's invention disclosure team for this invention, of which Dr. Dutta was a
        member, completed its evaluation of this invention on March 8, 2001. On
        that date, the team decided to go ahead with a search for prior art, in
        preparation for filing a patent application on this invention. IBM submitted
        the request for the search on March 9, 2001, and received the results of
        the search on April 4, 2001. On April 6, 2001, IBM decided to file a patent
        application on this invention. These actions were documented on pages 5
        and 6 of the archived invention disclosure (No. AUS8-2000-1441, copy
        attached hereto as Exhibit A2).

Application No.: 09/875,871
Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131

4.   Paul D. Heyd n, Patent Attorney, acknowledged receipt of our invention disclosure in an email message (copy attached hereto as Exhibit B) addressed to both of us on April 16, 2001.

5.   Dr. Banerjee met with Mr. Heydon at IBM's office complex in Austin, Texas on April 19, 2001, and discussed preparation of our patent application.

6.   Dr. Banerjee communicated to Mr. Heydon comments about drafts of our patent application, in May, 2001, including an email message (copy attached hereto as Exhibit C) on May 16, 2001, and telephone conversations on May 7 and 17, 2001.

7.   We both signed the Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application, and the Assignment (copy attached hereto as Exhibit D), on May 31, 2001.

8.   The acts described in this Declaration were carried out in the United States.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature   Date
                                                      12/19/03
Dwip N. Banerjee

Rabindranath Dutta

Application No.: 09/875,871
Applicants: Dwip N. Banerjee and Rabindranath Dutta
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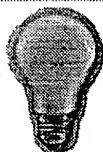
Signature   Date

Dwip N. Banerjee

Rabindranath Dutta   12/19/2003

Rabindranath Dutta

Disclosure AUS8-2000-1441

Creat d By: Rabindranath Dutta   **Created On:** 10/13/2000 04:31:27 PM
Last Modified By: Rabindranath Dutta   **Last Modified On:** 10/31/2000 07:25:57 AM

*** IBM Confidential ***

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form .

Summary

Status	Under Evaluation
Processing Location	AUS
Functional Area	58 - TIVOLI (David Murphy)
Attorney/Patent Professional	Jeff LaBaw/Austin/IBM
IDT Team	John Sweitzer/Tivoli Systems; Sebastian Hassinger/Tivoli Systems; Nicole Harbour/Tivoli Systems
Submitted Date	10/30/2000 04:31:08 PM
Owning Division [Select]	TIV
PVT Score [Calculate]	To calculate a PVT score, use the 'Calculate PVT' button.
Incentive Program	*BMT*
Lab	
Technology Code	

Inventors with Lotus Notes IDs

Inventors: Dwip N Banerjee/Austin/IBM, Rabindranath Dutta/Tivoli Systems

Inventor Name > denotes primary contact	Inventor Serial	Div/Dept	Manager Serial	Manager Name
Banerjee, Dwip N.	1A7337	7T/D58S	611662	Haug, J.A. (Jessie)
Dutta, Rabindranath	978208	46/LYKS	388393	Zhang, R.P. (Randy)

Inventors without Lotus Notes IDs

IDT Selection

IDT Team:	Attorney/Patent Professional:
John Sweitzer/Tivoli Systems Sebastian Hassinger/Tivoli Systems Nicole Harbour/Tivoli Systems	Jeff LaBaw/Austin/IBM

Response Due to IP&L : 11/30/2000

Main Idea

Title of disclosure (in English)

Business Method for Automatic Integration of Shipping and Handling into E-commerce in the B2B domain.

Idea of disclosure

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.

Submitted for the business m thod patent incentiv
Reviewers should note that "patents on business methods are especially valuable in the marketplace today because they give companies exclusive rights to practice new ways of doing business" (from IBM announcement). Business methods spanning all industries are patentable subject matter and was reaffirmed recently by US. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, in State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc., 149 F.3d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 1998). US Class 705/001 has hundreds of business method patents and submissions for business method patents have exploded industrywide. It is because of the scarcity of such business methods in the IBM portfolio that the special incentive award has been instituted. The 450 special awards to be provided in this scheme indicates the importance of business methods to IBM.

Note that the invention is exclusively for the B2B domain.

RELATED ART

Currently e-commerce transactions typically involve the cost for the physical shipment method being calculated by the seller's Web server in both Business to Business (B2B) and Business to Consumer domains. This is often a cause of customer complaint and annoyance because it makes price comparisons between products from different sellers extremely difficult since in e-commerce transactions shipment cost is often a significant part of the cost paid by the buyer. Price comparisons are often almost meaningless without the shipping charges. In particular with the explosion of B2B transactions shipping costs have become very important. The following picture shows a B2B marketplace for Verticalnet.

The following picture illustrates a situation where a searching service is utilized to find the prices of PalmPilot III, say on an B2B marketplace and the results sorted by price shows the magnitude of the problem. It can be seen that virtually none of the sites indicate their shipping costs. It is by offering a low price for the merchandise but increasing the shipping cost that e-commerce sellers often attract customers to visit their site. In fact some sites actually use robotic agents to quote the minimum price and make up for it via other costs or delays in product delivery. If a corporation wanted to order a thousand Palms for its employees and were searching for price it would cause immense problems.

Palm III Connected Organizer Palmpilot 80300U 3COM US ROBOTICS 3COMPALM3 USE INT S...

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Bookmarks   Location: ://www.shopper.com/cgi-bin/nph-sort2?a0=209337&a1=4   What's Related

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Similar Products: Handhelds: Systems
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		Merchant	Price	State	Phone	Approx. Shipping	In Stock	Last Updated	
1	Buy Info	ClubComputer.com JOIN TO SAVE More company info	$164.95 Member price	VA	800.449.1776	FREE	See site	8- 4-99	
2	Buy Info	Shopping.com CNET Certified Merchant More company info	$179.00	CA	888.568.3274	See Site	Yes	8-26-99	
3	Buy Info	egghead.com CNET Certified Merchant More company info	$179.94	**	800.344.4323	See Site	Yes	8-26-99	
4	Buy Info	Onsale CNET Certified Merchant More company info	$179.95	CA	888.264.1524	See Site	See site	8-26-99	
5	Buy Info	NationPC.com More company info	$190.00	NY	212.293.7927	See Site	Yes	8-26-99	
6	Buy Info	pcWonders.com CNET Certified Merchant More company info	$199.95	NJ	800.753.9363	See Site	Yes	8-26-99	

The following Website contains an interesting article on how shippers are working with etailers to promote

customer convenience in product returns:
http://www.ec.ups.com/ecommerce/whatsnew/online_returns.html
UPS's example shows how important the shipper is for e-commerce. In fact, Fedex is even getting into the business of advising Fortune 500 corporations of efficient delivery of supplies and supply management. Dell often ships monitors and computers from different plants but they are aggregated by the shipper and delivered to the business site together.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A method that completes an e-commerce transaction in two phases:
1. Buying an item at the advertised price from a merchant from one Web Server
2. Paying for shipment of the item via a buyer determined physical carrier of merchandise **in a B2B situation (while the method can be extended to B2C it might be cost prohibitive in that domain).**
The method integrates the two into an e-commerce system. In many corporations there are preferred shippers e.g. IBM has Airborne express for delivering small packages and letters. What we are suggesting is a preferred shipper for receiving.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Figure 2 shows an overview of the system where the Web client of a business can connect over the Internet to the Seller's Web server and also to the preferred shipper's Web Server.
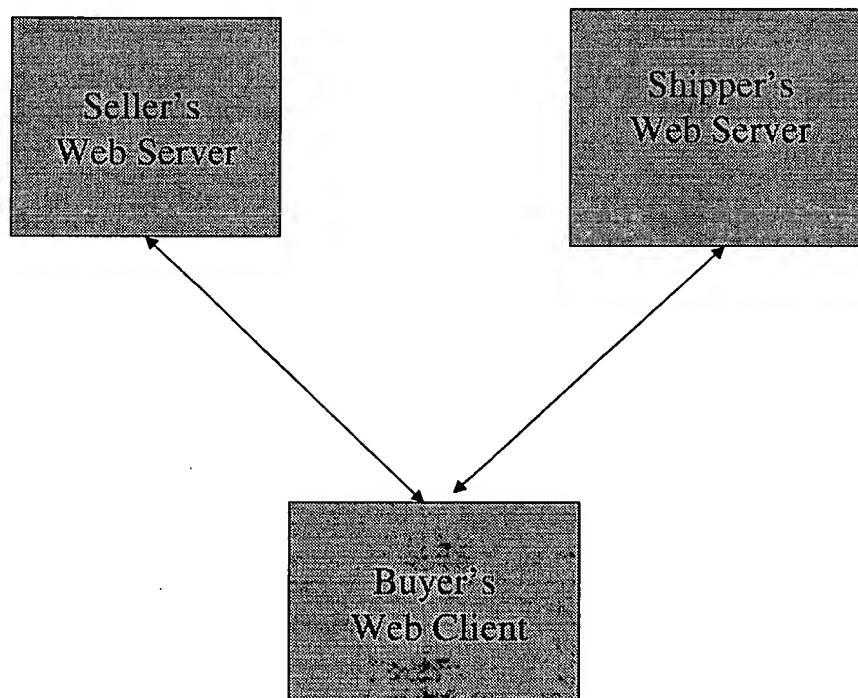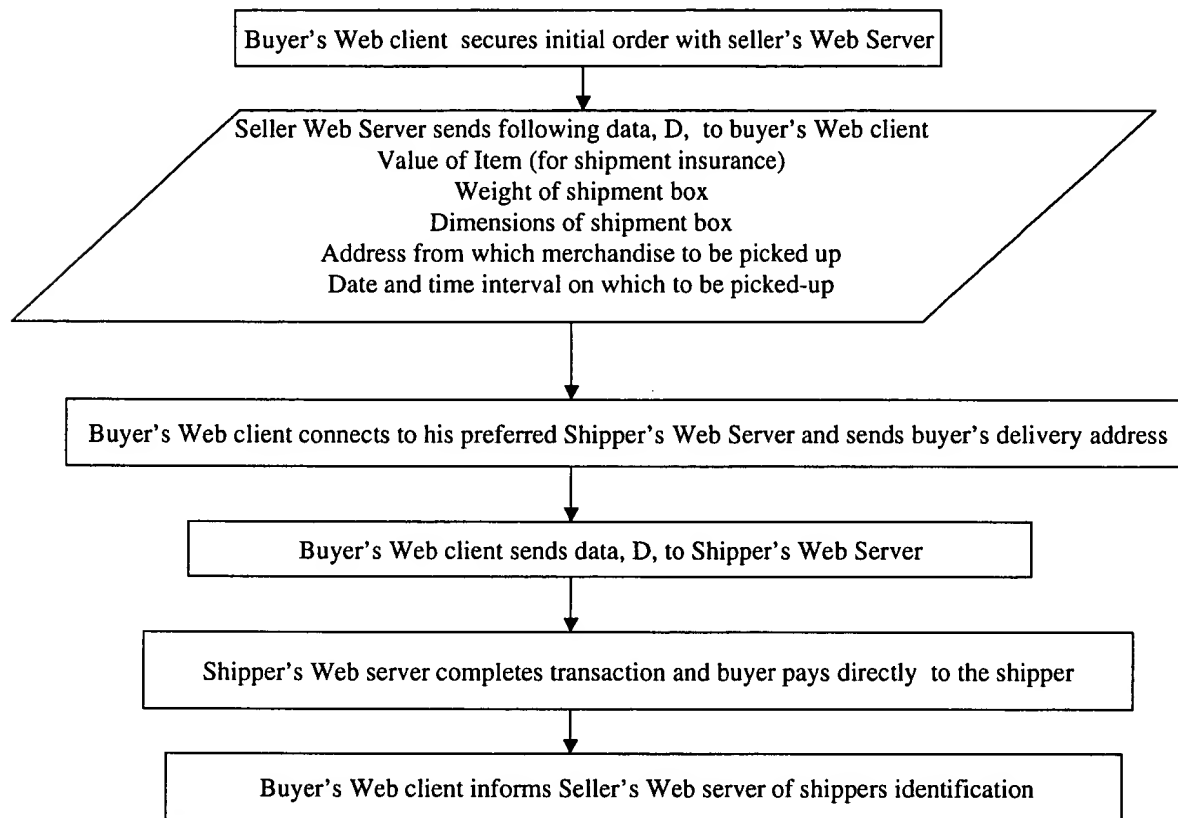
Figure 2: Overview of the system

Figure 3 describes in a flowchart the sequence of transactions for an illustrative sale.

Figure 3: Flowchart of System

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Buyer's Web client  secures initial order with seller's Web Server │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              │
                              ▼
      /  Seller Web Server sends following data, D, to buyer's Web client  /
     /            Value of Item (for shipment insurance)            /
    /                   Weight of shipment box                   /
   /                  Dimensions of shipment box                  /
  /          Address from which merchandise to be picked up          /
 /         Date and time interval on which to be picked-up         /
                              │
                              ▼
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Buyer's Web client connects to his preferred Shipper's Web Server and sends buyer's delivery address │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              │
                              ▼
      ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
      │ Buyer's Web client sends data, D, to Shipper's Web Server │
      └──────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              │
                              ▼
   ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
   │ Shipper's Web server completes transaction and buyer pays directly  to the shipper │
   └──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                              │
                              ▼
   ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
   │ Buyer's Web client informs Seller's Web server of shippers identification │
   └──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

All kinds of variations to the embodiment like a seller leading the buyer to independent carriers from within his Web site should also be covered by the invention.

The scheme can be easily scaled to the business-to-business space where it can lend efficiency to enterprise resource management and supply chain management. Consider an example of a corporation like IBM that is buying a lot of materials from its suppliers like Xerox, Solectron etc. using UPS as interface for shipping and handling. When the procurement department or an individual department orders material they can enter their UPS code and the shipping and handling costs are automatically calculated (based on the existing rates between IBM and UPS in this case) and UPS charges IBM directly. At the same time UPS server is informed about the new procurement that needs to be shipped to IBM and it is given a tracking code (which UPS uses in its dealing with Xerox/Solectron for this particular IBM order).

It is clear that the enterprise resource management as well as the inventory is streamlined. It introduces automation and efficiency in the supply chain management for corporate entities as well.

CLAIMS

Method to enhance e-commerce transactions in a B2B situation comprising the following steps:

buying from a seller's Web Server;

paying for shipment costs to a shipper's Web Server; and

shipping of items to destination through independent and direct interactions between buyer, seller and shipper using a tracking code that is shared between the three.

Dependent claim: Extension of the said method to business-to-business space involving corporations (procurers, suppliers and shippers) to promote automation and improve efficiency in enterprise resource planning and supply chain management.

Note that the invention is exclusively for the B2B domain as it is unlikely to be viable in the B2C domain - although we guess claims could encompass both.

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage,(a description of "the invention", including figures inline as appropriate)?

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure details to others and the date of that implementation.

*Critical Questions (Questions 1 - 7 must be answered)

*Question 1
On what date was the invention workable? 10/13/2000 **Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY** (Workable means i.e. when you know that your design will solve the problem)

*Question 2	
Is there any planned or actual publication or disclosure of your invention to anyone outside IBM?	○ Yes ● No
If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below. Publication/Patent: Date Published or Issued:	
Are you aware of any publications, products or patents that relate to this invention?	○ Yes ● No
If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below. Publication/Patent: Date Published or Issued:	

*Question 3
Has the subject matter of the invention or a product incorporating the invention been sold, used internally in manufacturing, announced for sale, or included in a proposal?

○ Yes
● No

Is a sale, use in manufacturing, product announcement, or proposal planned?

○ Yes
● No

If Yes, identify the product if known and indicate the date or planned date of sale, announcements, or proposal and to whom the sale, announcement or proposal has been or will be made.

    Product:
Version/Release:
   Code Name:
     Date:
    To Whom:
If more than one, use cut and paste and append as necessary in the field provided.

*Question 4
Was the subject matter of your invention or a product incorporating your invention used in public, e.g., outside IBM or in the presence of non-IBMers?

○ Yes
● No

If yes, give a date. **Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY**

*Question 5
Have you ever discussed your invention with others not employed at IBM?

○ Yes
● No

If yes, identify individuals and date discussed. Fill in the text area with the following information, the names of the individuals, the employer, date discussed, under CDA, and CDA #.

*Question 6
Was the invention, in any way, started or developed under a government contract or project?

○ Yes
● No
○ Not sure

If Yes, enter the contract number

*Question 7
Was the invention made in the course of any alliance, joint development or other contract activities?

○ Yes
● No
○ Not Sure

If Yes, enter the following : Name of Alliance, Contractor or Joint Developer

Contract ID number	
Relationship contact name	
Relationship contact E-mail	
Relationship contact phone	

Question 8
Have you submitted, or are you aware of, any related disclosure submission?

● Yes
○ No

If Yes, please provide the title and docket or disclosure number below:
AUS8-1999-1011 which related to the B to C (business to consumer) domain was submitted by one of the inventors and closed without a patentibility search being conducted as it was felt that this was difficult to implement for individual buyers. The current invention is for the B to B domain which is commerically very lucrative and has seen an explosion of growth in recent days.

Question 9
What type of companies do you expect to compete with inventions of this type? *Check all that apply.*

☐ Manufacturers of enterprise servers
☐ Manufacturers of entry servers
☐ Manufacturers of workstations
☐ Manufacturers of PC's
☐ Non-computer manufacturers
☐ Developers of operating systems
☐ Developers of networking software
☐ Developers of application software
☐ Integrated solution providers
☐ Service providers
☒ Other (Please specify below)
Large corporations with lots of shipping and commerce; UPS, Fedex, Postal service etc.

Patent Value Tool (Optional - this may be used by the inventor and attorney to assist with the evalua

(The Patent Value tool can be used by you or the evaluation team to determine the potential licensing value of your invention.)

The **Patent Value Tool** has not yet been used to calculate a score.

Post Disclosure Text & Drawings
Enter any additional information relating to this disclosure below:

(Form Revised 12/17/97)

. Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form .

* Title of disclosure (in English)
Business Method for Automatic Integration of Shipping and Handling into E-commerce in the B2B domain.

Summary

Status	Final Decision (File)
Final deadline	
Final deadline reason	
Docket family	AUS9-2001-0346
* Processing location	Austin
* Functional area	(58) 58 - TIVOLI (David Murphy)
Attorney/Patent professional	Leslie Van Leeuwen/Austin/IBM
IDT team	John Sweitzer/Tivoli Systems Sebastian Hassinger/Tivoli Systems Rabindranath Dutta/Tivoli Systems
Submitted date	10/30/2000 05:31:08 PM EST
* Owning division	TIV
Incentive program	INC9
Lab	
* Technology code	

Inventors with a Blue Pages entry

Inventors: Dwip N Banerjee/Austin/IBM, Rabindranath Dutta/Tivoli Systems

Inventor Name	Inventor Serial	Div/Dept	Inventor Phone	Manager Name
Banerjee, Dwip N.	1A7337	7T/D58S	N/A	Haug, J.A. (Jessie)
Dutta, Rabindranath	978208	46/LYKS	N/A	Zhang, R.P. (Randy)

> denotes primary contact

Inventors without a Blue Pages entry

IDT Selection

Attorney/Patent professional   Leslie Van Leeuwen/Austin/IBM

EXHIBIT A2

IDT team   J hn Sweitzer/Tivoli Systems
                             Sebastian Hassinger/Tivoli Systems
                             Rabindranath Dutta/Tivoli Systems
Response due t_ IP&L   11/30/2000

Main Idea

To view the Main Idea of this disclosure, open the "Main Idea" document from the view

*Critical Questions (Questions 1-9 must be answered in English)

---

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On what date was the invention workable?   10/13/2000   **Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY**
(Workable means i.e. when you know that your design will solve the problem)

---

*Question 2
               ○ Yes

Is there any planned or actual publication or disclosure of your invention to ● No
anyone outside IBM?

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.
Publication/Patent:
   Date Published or Issued:

Are you aware of any publications, products or patents that relate to this   ○ Yes
invention?
                                                       ● No

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.
Publication/Patent:
   Date Published or Issued:

---

*Question 3
              ○ Yes

Has the subject matter of the invention or a product incorporating the   ● No
invention been sold, used internally in manufacturing, announced for sale,
or included in a proposal?

Is a sale, use in manufacturing, product announcement, or proposal   ○ Yes
planned?
                                                       ● No

If Yes, identify the product if known and indicate the date or planned date of sale,
announcements, or proposal and to whom the sale, announcement or proposal has been or will be
made.
        Product:
Version/Release:
    Code Name:
          Date:
     To Whom:
If more than one, use cut and paste and append as necessary in the field provided.

---

*Question 4
              ○ Yes

Was the subject matter of your invention or a product incorporating your   ● No
invention used in public, e.g., outside IBM or in the presence of
non-IBMers?

If yes, give a date.   **Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY**

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Was the invention, in any way, started or developed under a government contract or project?

○ Yes
● No
○ Not sure

If Yes, enter the contract number

---

*Question 7
Was the invention made in the course of any alliance, joint development or other contract activities?
If **Yes**, enter the following:

○ Yes
● No
○ Not Sure

Name of Alliance, Contractor or Joint Developer	
Contract ID number	
Relationship contact name	
Relationship contact E-mail	
Relationship contact phone	

---

*Question 8
Have you, or any of the other inventors, submitted this same invention disclosure or similar invention disclosure previously?

● Yes
○ No

If Yes, please provide disclosure number below:

AUS8-1999-1011 which related to the B to C (business to consumer) domain was submitted by one of the inventors and closed without a patentibility search being conducted as it was felt that this was difficult to implement for individual buyers. The current invention is for the B to B domain which is commerically very lucrative and has seen an explosion of growth in recent days.

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○ Yes
○ No

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Question 10
What type of companies do you expect to compete with inventions of this type? *Check all that apply.*

☐ Manufacturers of enterprise servers
☐ Manufacturers of entry servers
☐ Manufacturers of workstations
☐ Manufacturers of PC's
☐ Non-computer manufacturers
☐ Developers of operating systems
☐ Developers of networking software
☐ Developers of application software
☐ Integrated solution providers
☐ Service providers
☒ Other (Please specify below)
Large corporations with lots of shipping and commerce; UPS, Fedex, Postal service etc.

Question 11
If the invention relates to a product or service that is outside the scope of your business unit, please recommend IBM business unit(s), IBM location(s) or individual(s) within IBM that you think would provide a good evaluation of your invention:

*Patent Value Tool (Optional - this may be used by the inventor and attorney to assist with the eval

(The Patent Value tool can be used by the inventor(s) to determine the potential licensing value of your invention.)
Market
*Question 1: What is the anticipated annual market size (in dollars) that will be captured by your invention?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Claims
*Question 1: How new is the technical field?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

*Question 2: How central is the invention to the product(s) which might be expected to contain the invention?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

*Question 3: What is the scope of the claim?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Portfolio Need
*Question 1: What are the portfolio needs in the area of your invention?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Exploitation & Enforcement
*Question 1: How easily can the use of the invention by a competitor be detected?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

   Printed 12/19/2003 at 09:30:54 AM

*Question 2: How easily can the use of the invention be avoided by a competitor?

Reason(s) for ab ve Answer:

Business Value
*Question 1: What percentage of the companies producing products in the field of this invention might use this invention?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

*Question 2: What is the value of this patent to current or anticipated Alliance Activity between IBM and other companies?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

*Question 3: What is the value of this patent to current or anticipated Technology Transfer Activity between IBM and other companies?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

*Question 4: Does it result in prestige to IBM?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Evaluation

This team evaluation was entered by Nancy Werchan/Austin/IBM on 03/08/2001

What is the team's evaluation of this disclosure?   Search

Date evaluated : 03/08/2001

Evaluation comments

Final Evaluation History	Who made the final evaluation	Final evaluation date
Search	Nancy Werchan/Austin/IBM	3/8/01

Search Information

Date sent: 03/09/2001	*Target completion date: 03/30/2001	Search results received date: 04/04/2001

Who was the search sent to (This area is to designate a Local Searcher name or WAIPL):

*Search type: ☒ Patentability ☐ Clearance   ☐ Validity   ☐ State of Art

*Features to be searched: In this invention, a buyer purchases something from an e-commerce web site, and then contracts separately for shipping services. Rather than selecting one of the seller's shipping methods and paying the seller, the buyer contracts with any shipper he chooses and pays the shipper directly.

Search Office Information

Target completion date: 03/30/2001	☐ Search has been delayed	Ship/Return date: 04/03/2001

Search conducted by Wiens

Comments

Final Decision

This decision was entered by **Barbara Rogers/Austin/IBM** on **04/06/2001**

Decision: File	Status: N/A
PPM area:	
Date of final decision : 04/06/2001	

Additional filing information
Planned Filing date: 05/18/2001
Filing comments:

Additional decision comments

Final Decison History

Entered on 6-Apr-2001 by Barbara Rogers
File N/A 6-Apr-2001 Docket Family: AUS920010346

Post Disclosure Text & Drawings
To add additional information related to this disclosure once it has been submitted, click the action
button below and a new document will be opened for you to enter the new information. To view
existing post disclosure information, double-click on the item in the list below (if there has been
additional information entered), and the document will open for you to view.

Date entered   Post disclosure comments and drawings (double-click an item below to view)

Form Revised 09/01/02)

Subject: Re: E-commerce patent applications
    Date: Mon, 16 Apr 2001 13:53:20 -0400
    From: "Rabindranath Dutta" <dutta@us.ibm.com>
      To: "Paul D. Heydon" <pheydon@stic.net>
      CC: "Dwip N Banerjee" <dnbanerg@us.ibm.com>

Paul,
It was a pleasure working with you last month on the two patent
applications. Dr. Dwip Banerjee my co-inventor will handle these
applications with you and set up a meeting with you in Austin in the IBM
Complex (the high rise buildings across the street from Leslie's office).
Dwip is very accessible and prompt in returning messages and phone calls
and is outstanding in explaining different aspects of the invention
verbally to outside counsel. So you should have no difficulty with the
inventions.
Dwip will contact you shortly to set up the time.
- Rabi

 Dr. Rabi Dutta
 Phone: (512) 436-9744

"Paul D. Heydon" <pheydon@stic.net>@e33.esmtp.ibm.com on 04/16/2001
12:16:15 PM

Sent by: paul@e33.esmtp.ibm.com

To: Rabindranath Dutta/Austin/IBM@IBMUS, Dwip N Banerjee/Austin/IBM@IBMUS
cc:
Subject: E-commerce patent applications

Leslie Van Leeuwen has retained me to write patent applications for two
inventions:
Disclosure No. AUS8-2000-1441, Docket No. AUS9-2001-0346-US1
[Integration of shipping]
Disclosure No. AUS8-2000-1645, Docket No. AUS9-2001-0347-US1 [Bundled
coupons]

I would be happy to meet with one or both of you in Austin to discuss
these. We might also discuss some patents that Leslie found regarding
shipping and e-commerce. Please let me know where you would prefer to
meet, and some suggested times. [I would prefer not to meet early in the
morning, or late in the afternoon, so that I can get in and out of
Austin without encountering the worst of the traffic.] Thank you.

Best regards,
Paul D. Heydon
Patent Attorney
6102 Broadway, Suite B2
San Antonio, TX 78209

210-930-4300

Subject: Re: Patent applications
    Date: Wed, 16 May 2001 16:31:55 -0500 (CDT)
   From: dwip@austin.ibm.com
      To: pheydon@stic.net (Paul D. Heydon)

Paul,

I just retrieved your faxed writeup. we had some stuff going on
today (i just came to work), so I'll take a look overnight and
have my comments ready for you tomorrow. I'll call you or email
you with the comments. And the XML bit sounds fine. Feel free
to put it in. thanks,

Dwip

>
> I am writing to confirm that you received the draft of the complete
> application, regarding shipping services, that I faxed to you yesterday.
>
> I also have found some material that might be useful as added
> implementation detail for one or both of the e-commerce patent
> applications. I would propose adding the following paragraph to page 5
> of the application that I faxed to you yesterday:
>
> XML provides a way of containing and managing information that is
> designed to handle data exchange among various data systems. Thus
> it is well-suited to implementation of the present invention.
> Reference is made to the book by Elliotte Rusty Harold and W.
> Scott Means, XML in a Nutshell (O'Reilly & Associates, 2001). As
> a general rule XML messages use "attributes" to contain
> information about data, and "elements" to contain the actual
> data. Reference is made to a white paper by Transentric
> Corporation, TranXML [TM] : The Common Vocabulary for
> Transportation Data Exchange (2001), available at
> www.transentric.com. The paper describes TranXML [TM], a markup
> language developed for data exchange in the transportation
> industry. The data format is readable by both humans and
> machines. These XML structures are open source software, freely
> available under a General Public License, and they include XML
> structures for messages relating to tracing shipped goods (e.g. a
> Shipment Status Message).
>
> Best regards,
> Paul
>
>

EXHIBIT C

ASSIGNMENT

Whereas, we,

(1) Dwip N. Banerjee of 3607 Greystone Drive, #823, Austin,
County of Travis   and State of Texas

and
(2) Rabindranath Dutta of 3401 Parmer Lane West, #835, Austin,
County of Travis   and State of Texas

have invented Using a Communications Network in Arranging Shipment of Goods According to a Buyer's Preferences
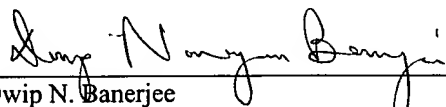
and executed a United States patent application therefore on
(*Date Inventor Signed Declaration*)(1)   O5/31   , 2001; and (2) 05/31   , 2001.
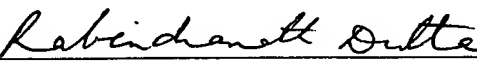
Whereas, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION, a corporation of New York, having a place of business in Armonk, New York 10504, (hereinafter called IBM), desires to acquire the entire right, title and interest in the said application and invention, and to any United States and foreign patents to be obtained therefore;

Now therefore, for a valuable consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, I, the above named, hereby sell, assign, and transfer to IBM, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the said application and invention therein disclosed for the United States and foreign countries, and all rights of priority resulting from the filing of the said United States application, and I request the Commissioner of Patents to issue any Letters Patent granted upon the invention set forth in said application to IBM, its successors and assigns; and I hereby agree that IBM may apply for foreign Letters Patent on said invention and I will execute all papers necessary in connection with the United States and foreign applications when called upon to do so by IBM.

Signed at ___A U S T I N___ on ___O5/31___, 2001.

Dwip N. Banerjee

Signed at ___A U S T I N___ on ___05/31___, 2001.

Rabindranath Dutta

Page 1 of 1

EXHIBIT D